

BRENHAM WEEKLY

ESTABLISHED 1865.

BRENHAM, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

The Brenham Banner

Published Daily and Weekly.

BANKIN & LEVIN, Proprietors.

Largest Circulation of any Paper published in this Territorial District.

Daily, one cent; one year, \$1.00; six months, \$0.60; three months, \$0.30.

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Public clerk notices, 50 cents per line.

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On Saturday last there was a snow fall of 22 inches at Kansas City. The snow storm was general throughout the west. Everything was snowed up and trains could hardly run.

The national council of the Union League met at Philadelphia on Thursday. Political issues were discussed; the political rights of "all men" under the constitution is the subject that bothers them most.

It seems that congress is paying particular attention to the bloody-shirt business and the rekindling of sectional animosities, while the important business that concerns the country at large is being neglected.

A Washington special to the *Galveston News* says: "The feeling of the democrats in congress is adverse to Edmund's electoral bill. It is believed the house of representatives will reject it."

In Missouri the legislature reduced passenger tariffs from 4-1-2 to 3 cents a mile. The railroads kicked up considerably at the reduction and are now surprised to find that their receipts have increased instead of diminished.

On the Stockton course at San Francisco, Rarus beat Goldsmith Maid's time—2:14. Rarus trotted the first mile in 2:16-1-2. In the second heat a running horse went with him, and Rarus trotted a mile in 2:14-1-4.

In the Patterson murder trial at Flemington, N. J., the jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter upon the ground of provocation, viz: Adulterous conduct of his wife with Mixon. He was sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary.

The Austin city council has passed an ordinance allowing the informer in all cases for carrying concealed deadly weapons a portion of the fine imposed. The idea is a good one and would work well in Brenham. Entirely too many pistols are carried.

The Northern republicans finding that in spite of the negro vote, the South continues to elect democratic congressmen, now talk of disfranchising Mr. Negro in order to lessen the democratic representation in congress from the South. The scheme will hardly work.

In states where lotteries are pronounced illegal it has come about that this species of gambling is confined, as far as its public practice is concerned, almost exclusively to church fairs. Vermont now proposes to give no greater privileges to religions than secular ventures of this kind.

HENRY M. STANLEY, the African explorer, has written a letter to the *Manchester Courier* in which he suggests the practicability of opening a great and profitable traffic with the empires of Central Africa, and thus make his explorations of practical benefit in opening new fields for British enterprise.

We learn from Dr. Morris of Belleville, that grading on the Santa Fe road has been carried, not half a mile, but a mile and a half into Austin county and is now being vigorously pushed. Citizens of Belleville regard the prospects of the road as more flattering than at any previous time in its history.

The culture of fruit in the United States is an industry of far greater importance than would be supposed. Official returns show that 3,500,000 acres is devoted to fruit. There are 112,000,000 apple trees, 28,000,000 pear trees, 112,270,000 peach trees, and 141,260,000 grape vines. The value of the annual product this immense number of trees and vines is estimated at \$138,246,700, which is equal to about one half the value of the average annual wheat crop.

At Mount Canie, Fla., about a month ago four negroes set fire to a mill. They afterwards went to the house of the superintendent of the mill and beat his wife, compelling her to give up \$200 belonging to her husband. The upshot of the matter was that three of the colored gentlemen were lynched.

An agent for a pistol house, says an Indianapolis, Ind., paper, attracted by the brisk murder business has appeared in that city and offers to fill wholesale orders for killing pistols at the very low price of six bits apiece, each pistol warranted. At such ruinous prices every ten-year-old boy can afford to have a "pop."

Galveston, it seems, is rather a poor place for the "show" business. It is a rare thing that a theatrical troupe can draw respectable audiences for a week. The Lingers, a good troupe played to poor houses during last week and on Saturday night the audience was too small to justify giving a performance. This does not speak volumes for Galveston.

HEAVY and destructive floods are reported in Pennsylvania, New York and New England. The Passaic river is within a foot of the high water mark of 1854. At Bordentown the Delaware is so high that the railroads are all submerged. A part of the town of North Adams, Mass., is under water and the inhabitants can only reach their houses in gondolas.

THE financial statement of the city of Houston for the year ending December 2nd, shows the total receipts of the city to have been \$103,086.50, while the current expenses were \$80,603.52. The grand total of the debt of the city is \$1,691,349.03. The entire revenues of the city are hardly sufficient to pay the interest on the debt at six per cent.

BLAINE made his speech in the senate on Wednesday. His deduction is that because one of 106 representatives elected from former slave-holding states must be something wrong that needs investigation. He was ably answered by Thurman and Lamar. According to Blaine's idea a free ballot in the south means that every negro must and shall vote the radical ticket.

THE final crop report of the agricultural department shows the increased acreage of cotton this year to be only 2 per cent. more than last year. October and November returns show the condition 11 per cent. higher than the same months last year. The yield of lint per acre is much higher than in 1877. The average production of lint for 1878 is 191 pounds per acre; the crop will be in round numbers 5,197,000 bales.

EDMUND's bill in regard to the count of the electoral vote passed the senate by a vote of 35 to 26. The bill as passed provides that electors of president and vice president shall be appointed in each state on the first Tuesday in October in every fourth year. The electors are to meet and give their votes for president and vice president on the second Monday in January next following, at the place where the legislature shall direct.

In Custer county, Nebraska, two men named Ketchum and Mitchell, accused of stealing stock, killed a herder named Stevens, who was trying to arrest them, were taken from the sheriff of that county by armed men, who tied them to a tree and burned them to death. Some twenty-five masked men—herders—participated in the crematory exercises. This is the first instance on record wherein men have been burned for cattle stealing; the remedy is no doubt effective.

The state papers are dolefully howling, "Suppress crime," at the same time the jurors are turning the murderers loose all over the state. Witness, Byrd Moore, who stood by and assisted in the assassination of Capt. Killough near LaGrange. The jury promptly cleared him.—*Telegram*.

A Poll Tax.

The idea of making the payment of a poll tax a pre-requisite to voting is favorably mentioned by all the papers which have expressed any opinion on the subject. It is a well known fact that there is a very large percentage of the poll tax is not now paid and there is no means of forcing its collection. A poll tax law would work like a charm in the counties where there is a large negro population. About all the enjoyment some negroes have in the world is voting; it is a part of their existence, and they never allow an opportunity to vote to pass. A very large majority of them pay no taxes and also avoid road working. If they were compelled to exhibit their poll tax receipts before voting, the probability is there would be fewer of them vote; the people generally would be better off. In regard to the whites, the votes of those who are unwilling or unable to pay a poll tax could be dispensed with, without any serious detriment to the public good. Among other things of importance this is one that is worthy of the serious consideration of the legislature.

THE *Galveston News* in an editorial upon the action of the directory in accepting the \$250,000 loan upon the Santa Fe railroad, fully endorses the action of the stockholders in ratifying the same and take great pride in the fact that Galveston capitalists have agreed to advance the money. With this loan the *News* regards the success of the road as guaranteed and says that work will undoubtedly be continued; that with the money advanced the road will be clear of all floating indebtedness and in a condition to put its mortgage bonds on the market in such a shape as will attract purchasers. The *Banner* wishes the predictions of the *News* to be verified, and the sooner verified the better for the people of Washington county.

On Friday the directors of the Santa Fe railroad had a meeting in Galveston and agreed to accept the proposition to borrow \$250,000 on a mortgage on the road. A stockholder's meeting was held on Saturday and the action of the directors was ratified. The *Galveston News* thinks that with the realization of this loan the progress of the road will be uninterrupted. We regard this as very bad news for Houston and exceedingly good news for Brenham, Bellville, Caldwell and Belton. The Houston papers had about as well make up their minds that the "Kamskatska" and north-pole road will be built.

In Hartford county, Virginia, some negro bulldozers were themselves bulldozed. It happened thusly: Two negroes made an assault with intent to kill upon another negro who had voted for the democratic candidate for congress. Upon trial they were found guilty and sentenced to six years each in the state penitentiary. Blaine, of Maine, should investigate this case.

The Brenham Greys were represented at the ball by Capt. Kirby and Messrs. Hanney and Salley, the former gentleman having many warm friends and admirers in this place, and the two latter making the most favorable impression. The uniform of the Greys is very handsome, and has the charm of being the dearest color of a tree planted in 1850. Pecan trees can be made profitable.

—Twice better that country editors did not eat at all than to parade their *menus* before the public. The *Navasota Tablet* man fattened himself on "spar-ribs and sitch" and now he is celebrated throughout the State, not for his wit, the excellence of his paper, or anything of that kind, but for his gastronomic ability in disposing of "spar-ribs."

—There are six silver mines now being profitably worked in Mason county.

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STATE NEWS.

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—Strangers visiting Texas this fall from Northern States express themselves as perfectly delighted with our climate.

—John Washburn, aged 16, who shot and killed a 9-year old boy in Bell county, has been captured in Ellis county.

—Mrs McKinney, the lady shot through the lungs by her husband, a tavern keeper at Sherman, is likely to recover.

—A negro boy stealing a ride on the trucks of a passenger coach on the I. & G. N. R'y at Houston got one of his legs badly crushed.

—A prairie fire is raging between the Medina and San Antonio rivers, interfering materially with the pasturage in Wilson county.

—Buffalo Bill, charged with the murder of Bill Creiger at a Fort Worth dance-house, has been taken to Dallas for trial under a writ of habeas corpus.

—Steve McKinney, one of the parties charged with the shooting of Gus Porter, returned to Austin from New Orleans and surrendered himself to the authorities.

—The *Navasota Tablet* man has been presented with spars-ribs and back-bones, while the *Brazos Pilot* man gets "gumbo" stalks twenty-seven feet tall, high or long.

—The courthouse at Quitman has been burned. The lower floor had been saturated with coal oil. It is supposed that parties charged with crime did the mischief.

—Frank Redmond, well known in Houston, has been convicted of theft in the criminal court at that city and will put in two years in learning a trade at Huntsville.

—Successful experiments have been made in the cultivation of tobacco and sugar cane in DeWitt county, and an increased acreage is to be devoted to these products next season.

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—Josh Green, colored, elected constable in one of the Walker county beats having failed to procure his election certificate, the office has been declared vacant. This is sad for Josh, but the people of his beat will be able to stand it.

—A man named Lane was shot and killed in the presence of his wife and two year old child in McLennan county, by John Meadows and a man named Amos. There was a dispute about property. The murders escaped.

—Victoria *Advocate*: We had the honor of a call from that veteran Texan, Judge Prior Lea, of Goliad. The judge is in his 85th year and still hale and hearty. He is still engaged in the practice of the law and was in our city on professional business.

—John Carroll, of Grimes county, was robbed on Tuesday night about a mile from Round Rock of \$520 in currency. One \$50 bill was branded "D.M." on the back. Four men did the job. They had two shot guns and two Winchester.

—The *Houston Telegram* has been presented with a sample of pecans raised by Mr. Schilling of Harrisburg. The nuts were equal to the famous San Saba pecans and were the second bearing of a tree planted in 1850. Pecan trees can be made profitable.

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